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21 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Memorandum from JIC to Deputy Secretary of Defense on "Existing Deficiencies in Present Collection of Intelligence Information"

Problem:

1. To recommend a course of action with respect to subject memorandum, which was handed to the DCI by General Erskine for the former's comment and which the DDCI routed to the DD/1 and DD/2 for analysis and preparation of comments. (At the request of acting DD/1, JIC has prepared this staff study, which is based on comments from PI, OIA, NS, OAS, OSI, TCD and OSI, who have indicated concurrence in the proposed manner of handling this problem and in those parts applicable to them respectively.

Discussion:

1. There are certain clarifications (see Tab A) which could be made with respect to the JIC memorandum, though it is doubted that they would serve a useful purpose if made to either General Erskine or Mr. Byrd. It is suggested that they be taken up by AD/IC informally with appropriate military personnel. The purpose would be to ascertain whether, indeed, there is any important misunderstanding on the part of either JIC or CIA, and if so, to develop any necessary action to correct same.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
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Recommendations:

1. That the DDI comment to General Erskine informally in respect to this document along the following lines:

a) The critical deficiencies indicated in the subject paper have long been known by this Agency and the community. However, the level of our intelligence knowledge obtained through all source exploitation is higher than indicated in the document. Some of the critical needs may be met by clandestine collection or new methods such as alluded to in (c) below. Within CIA capabilities we are making every effort possible to meet these needs.

b) In general, the description of the various means whereby the U. S. government collects intelligence information is accurate. Certain points which need clarification should be taken up directly with the JIC on an informal basis by CIA.

c) We believe that new devices under control of operational elements in the Department of Defense may have a potential for collection on a significant proportion of the critical deficiencies listed. In this connection, as General Erskine will know by the time Mr. Dulles talks with him, this matter has recently been discussed at the NSC by Mr. Dulles.

d) General Erskine should be assured that the military intelligence services are working cooperatively with CIA and the IAC in respect of problems in this area and this paper points to none which at this time requires the attention of higher authorities in the Pentagon.

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Specific Comments on the JIC Paper Entitled,  
"Existing Deficiencies in Present Collection  
of Intelligence Information"

Procedure for Levying Requirements:

1. It might be helpful to clarify paragraph 2 on page 4 which does not depict quite accurately the procedure which is followed by CIA on receipt of a requirement from one of the Services. It omits mention of the fact that all such requests, except Interagency Priorities Committee targets which are handled separately, flow into the Agency through the Office of Collection and Dissemination, which serves as the initial point of screening to determine not only whether information on the subject is already available within CIA, but in addition to determine whether the request is appropriate for action by any of CIA's collection facilities. Each request is subject to critical review to determine capability to collect when received by the collector in question. It is doubted that the military intelligence agencies are trying to collect information not appropriate for assignment to their military attaches. However, it is no doubt recognized by them that they should always assess whether the information could be obtained easier and quicker through one of the other collecting mechanisms of the community.

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- 2 -

4. That the AD/IC be directed to inform the Chairman, JIC, of the action taken above and to consult with him and JIC members as to possible JIC-CIA misunderstandings reflected in the JIC memorandum.

JAMES Q. REBER  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

HC:JOR:KK (21 Sept 53)

APPROVED:



ROBERT A. BRY, JR.  
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

CHARLES P. CABELL  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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